



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

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## HIGHLIGHTS:

Dry Pea Production  
Austrian Winter Pea Production  
Lentil Production  
Sugar Beets Production  
Fall Potatoes Production  
2005 Crop Year Summary  
Ag Prices Received

### November 1 Crop Production Forecast

Montana **dry edible pea** production is forecast at 2.01 million cwt, up 58 percent from the 2004 estimate. Planted acreage for 2005 is estimated at 135,000 acres, 67,000 acres more than 2004. Harvested acreage is estimated at 118,000 acres, up 55,000 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 1,700 pounds per acre, 310 pounds per acre below 2004.

**Austrian winter pea** production in Montana is forecast at 176,000 cwt, up 78 percent from last year. Harvested acreage, at 16,000 acres, is expected to be up 5,000 acres from last year. Planted acreage for 2005 is estimated at 21,000 acres, up 7,000 acres from last year. The average yield is forecast at 1,100 lbs per acre, up 200 lbs per acre from 2004.

Montana's **lentil** production is forecast at 1.81 million cwt for 2005, up 79 percent from last year. Planted acreage, at 150,000 acres, is up 72,000 acres from 2004. Harvested acres, at 139,000, are up 67,000 acres from last year. Average yield is expected to be 1,300 lbs per acre, down 100 lbs from last year.

Montana **sugar beet** production is expected to be 1.14 million tons, up 1 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, of 22.8 tons per acre, is up 1.1 tons per acre from 2004. Harvested acreage is down 2,100 acres from last year to 50,000 acres.

**Fall potato** production in Montana is forecast at 3.43 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 10,900 acres, up 300 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 315 cwt per acre, down 20 cwt per acre from 2004.

The U.S. **dry edible pea** production is estimated at 13.8 million cwt, up 21 percent

from the 2004 estimate. Area for harvest, at 761,900 acres, is 50 percent above a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 1,813 pounds per acre, down 436 pounds from last season.

**Austrian winter pea** production in the United States for Idaho, Montana, and Oregon is forecast at 324,000 cwt, up 11 percent from 2004. Area harvested is forecast at 27,500 acres, up 12 percent from last year. Average yield is expected to be 1,178 pounds per acre, down 10 pounds per acre from last season.

U.S. **lentils** production is forecast at 5.10 million cwt, up 22 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 432,000 acres, up 31 percent from the previous year. Average yield is expected to be 1,181 pounds per acre, down 90 pounds per acre from 2004.

**Sugar beet** production in the U.S. for 2005 is forecast at 27.3 million tons, 2 percent above the October forecast but 9 percent below last year's production. The yield is forecast at 22.0 tons per acre, up 0.5 ton from October but 0.9 ton below 2004. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States expect to harvest 1.24 million acres, fractionally below last month and 5 percent below last year.

U.S. **fall potatoes** production for 2005 is forecast at 382 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 951,800 acres, is virtually unchanged from the July forecast but 7 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at a record high 402 cwt per acre, 1 cwt above the previous high set last year.

Western States production is forecast at 268 million cwt, down 5 percent from last year. Acreage harvested, at 600,900 acres, decreased 6 percent from last year but the average yield of 445 cwt per acre is up 7 cwt from 2004.

### Montana 2005 Crop Year Summary

Seeding of the 2005 winter wheat crop was complete by the end of October and 90 percent had emerged. An estimated 2.10 million acres were seeded, 200,000 acres above 2004. Favorable moisture and growing conditions occurred during the fall.

As a result, crop condition was rated 1% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 49% good, and 25% excellent. These ratings were much better than the 2004 crop, which was rated 6% very poor, 20% poor, 55% fair, 18% good, and 1% excellent at that time.

November 2004 temperatures were above normal with limited precipitation throughout the state. By the end of the month, 98% of the winter wheat crop was emerged and 78% was rated good to excellent. Topsoil moisture conditions at the end of the month were rated 17% very short, 44% short, 39% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 36% very short, 38% short, 26% adequate, and 0% surplus.

Montana had above normal temperatures until the last week of December when colder temperatures and snow arrived in the state. At month's end, the winter wheat crop had very little freeze or wind damage and 65% of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

Temperatures during January 2005 were cold and snow fell in most areas of the state during the first half of the month. Above normal temperatures and limited precipitation prevailed the last half of the month. Winter wheat conditions were better than the previous year because of less wind, freeze, and drought damage and were rated 5% very poor, 13% poor, 46% fair, 33% good, and 3% excellent.

The month of February was unseasonably mild with below average precipitation, which caused producers concern about both summer water shortages and wild fires. Winter wheat was greening earlier than normal because of the warm weather and was reported in mostly good to fair condition at month's end. In March, Montana had near normal temperatures and above average precipitation. Topsoil moisture conditions improved, compared to the previous month and was rated 22% very short, 33% short, 41% adequate and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 55% very short, 31% short, 13% adequate, and 1% surplus, better than February, but below 2004. Winter wheat was reported in mostly fair to good condition at month's end. Small grains seeding had just started in some locations. (continued on next page)

# November 1, 2005 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	2,100	1,630	2,050	41.0	45.0	66,830	92,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	570	570	545	565	33.0	28.0	17,985	15,820
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	2,850	2,550	31.0	32.0	88,350	81,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,470	5,270	5,025	5,165	34.5	36.7	173,165	189,670
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	70.0	60.0	15.0	15.0	143	3/	2,145	3/
Oats	Bu.	105	85	40.0	33.0	60.0	53.0	2,400	1,749
Barley	Bu.	1,000	950	830	710	59.0	56.0	48,970	39,760
Flaxseed	Bu.	20	55	19	53	18.0	3/	342	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	17.0	12.7	16.5	22.4	24.0	285	396
Dry Peas	Cwt.	68.0	135.0	63.0	118.0	20.1	17.0	1,266	2,006
Lentils	Cwt.	78.0	150.0	72.0	139.0	14.0	13.0	1,008	1,807
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	14.0	21.0	11.0	16.0	9.0	11.0	99	176
Sugar Beets	Ton	53.7	51.2	52.1	50.0	21.7	22.8	1,131	1,140
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9	335.0	315.0	3,551	3,434
Canola	Lbs.	15.0	19.0	15.0	18.0	1,590	1,400	23,850	25,200
Safflower	Lbs.	33.5	39.0	31.0	37.0	680	3/	21,080	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,700	2.30	2.70	3,220	4,590
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,250	1.40	1.60	1,540	2,000
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,950	1.90	2.23	4,760	6,590
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,350	40,320	34,462	33,680	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,493,769
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,561	2,735	2,363	2,691	38.0	37.2	89,893	100,045
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,763	14,036	13,174	13,609	43.2	37.1	568,918	504,456
All Wheat	Bu.	59,674	57,091	49,999	49,980	43.2	42.0	2,158,245	2,098,270
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,930	81,642	73,632	74,333	160.4	148.4	11,807,217	11,032,105
Oats	Bu.	4,085	4,240	1,787	1,823	64.7	63.1	115,695	115,002
Barley	Bu.	4,527	3,922	4,021	3,276	69.6	64.8	279,743	212,196
Flaxseed	Bu.	523	945	516	931	20.3	3/	10,471	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,354.3	1,659.8	1,219.3	1,522.1	14.6	17.2	17,799	26,109
Dry Peas	Cwt.	530.0	808.0	507.8	761.9	22.5	18.1	11,419	13,813
Lentils	Cwt.	345.0	450.0	329.0	432.0	12.7	11.8	4,182	5,101
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	32.5	38.5	24.5	27.5	11.9	11.8	291	324
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,239.3	22.9	22.0	29,956	27,254
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,039.7	972.2	1,166.9	1,084.3	391	389	456,041	421,326
Canola	Lbs.	865	1,153	828	1,125	1,618	1,333	1,339,530	1,499,300
Safflower	Lbs.	175.0	185.0	159.0	173.0	1,105	3/	175,765	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.43	75,383	75,940
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.94	82,391	76,931
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.48	157,774	152,871

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available January 12, 2006. -- Not published.

## Crop Year Summary

(continued from front page)

Small grains seeding began in April. By the end of the month, fieldwork was 57% well underway, behind last year's 82%. Most areas of the state received precipitation in April. Topsoil moisture conditions were 64% adequate to surplus compared with 2004 ratings of 32% adequate to surplus. By the end of the month, barley was 54% seeded, with 10% of the crop emerged. The spring wheat crop was 58% seeded, with 10% emerged. Durum wheat was 36% planted with 4% emerged. The corn crop was

8% planted. Oats were 46% seeded with 10% emerged. Potatoes and sugar beet planting had not started. At month's end, winter wheat condition was 21% excellent, 44% good, 29% fair, 5% poor, and 1% very poor.

May brought much needed rain throughout state. Freezing temperatures in some areas caused some damage to winter wheat, cherries, and sugar beets. Spring wheat and barley seeding was nearly complete at month's end, while durum wheat, oats, and corn seeding were above 90% complete. By the end of June, all crop conditions were rated

better than 2004 and crop progress was mostly ahead of the previous year. Haying had begun with alfalfa hay harvest at 21% complete and other hay at 17% complete.

Montana received moderate to light precipitation during July. Hot temperatures prevailed the entire month. Winter wheat harvest was 45% complete at month's end, compared to 10% last year and the five-year average of 35%. Harvest had begun for spring wheat, barley, and oats. First cutting of hay was nearly complete and second cutting had begun. (continued on back page)

## September Ag Prices Received

September full month crop prices were mostly higher compared to August 2005. Montana's winter wheat price was \$3.26 per bushel, up \$0.27 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up \$0.23 to \$3.50 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained \$0.16 to reach \$3.54 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased \$0.08 from the previous month to \$1.55; and malt barley prices were down \$0.21 to \$3.06 per bushel.

The mid-October price for alfalfa hay dropped \$10.00 from September to \$75.00 per ton and all other hay also was down \$3.00 to \$67.00 per ton. The mid-October grain prices were mixed with winter wheat price averaging \$3.42 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.94; durum wheat \$3.28; feed barley was \$1.42; and malt barley \$3.03.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mostly higher compared to August 2005. Steer and heifer prices

increased \$1.00 to \$107.00 per cwt, but cows decreased \$0.70 to \$51.70. The price for calves jumped \$8.00 to \$144.00 per cwt, a new record high. Sheep prices increased \$3.30 to \$44.90 per cwt, while lamb prices rose \$3.00 to \$124.00 per cwt. Full month September milk prices increased \$0.50 per cwt from August to \$15.80. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October were \$116.00 per cwt, a new record high; cows \$52.40 per cwt; calves \$135.00 per cwt; and mid-month October milk prices \$15.40 per cwt, down \$0.40 from September.

Nationally, prices for September and changes from August were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.26, up \$0.12; spring wheat was \$3.50, up \$0.07; durum wheat was \$3.40, up \$0.01; the all barley price was \$2.36, down \$0.13, and steer and heifer prices were \$92.30, up \$4.50 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-October winter wheat price was \$3.42 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.79 per bushel; durum wheat was

\$3.25 per bushel; all wheat was \$3.54 per bushel; malt barley was \$2.83 per bushel; feed barley was \$1.86 per bushel; and all barley was \$2.43. Steer and heifer prices were \$96.00 per cwt; cow prices were \$47.70, calves were \$132.00 per cwt; all hog prices were \$48.80 per cwt; and all egg prices were \$0.51 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 110, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 7 points (6.0 percent) from September. The Crop Index is down 11 points (9.8 percent) while the Livestock Index is unchanged. Producers received lower commodity prices for broilers, corn, eggs, and soybeans. Higher prices were received for cattle, sweet corn, wheat, and turkeys. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Decreased average marketings of dairy, sweet corn, grapes, and wheat offset increased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and cottonseed.

## United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	September 2004	October 2004	September 2005	October 2005
Prices Received	116	114	117	110
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	135	136	142	143
Ratio 2/	86	84	82	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2004	Oct. 15, 2005	Oct. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.22	2.99	3.26	3.28	+0.27	+0.04	3.42	3.42
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.08	3.38	3.54	3.40	+0.16	-0.54	3.28	3.25
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.27	3.50	3.50	+0.23	-0.14	3.94	3.79
All Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.15	3.39	3.35	+0.24	-0.18	3.63	3.54
Barley, All	Bu.	2.93	3.04	2.68	2.36	-0.36	-0.25	2.63	2.43
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.61	1.47	1.55	1.82	+0.08	-0.06	1.42	1.86
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.27	3.27	3.06	2.75	-0.21	-0.21	3.03	2.83
Oats	Bu.	1.76	na	na	1.54	na	na	na	1.46
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	79.00	76.00	85.00	107.00	+9.00	+6.00	75.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	68.00	70.00	74.60	+2.00	-1.00	67.00	76.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	74.00	82.00	99.00	+8.00	+5.00	74.00	97.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	109.00	106.00	107.00	92.30	+1.00	-2.00	116.00	96.00
Cows	Cwt	55.00	52.40	51.70	49.80	-0.70	-3.30	52.40	47.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	93.90	91.00	91.00	88.20	nc	-2.90	105.00	90.80
Calves	Cwt	128.00	136.00	144.00	133.00	+8.00	+16.00	135.00	132.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	41.70	41.60	44.90	43.30	+3.30	+3.20	na	na
Lambs 2/	Cwt	110.00	121.00	124.00	110.00	+3.00	+14.00	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	15.20	15.30	15.80	15.30	+0.50	+0.60	15.40	15.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

## Crop Year Summary (continued)

Hot weather continued and lasted the entire month of August. Most areas received moderate precipitation during the month. Hail storms in the eastern part of the state caused some damage to crops in a few areas. By month's end, winter wheat harvest was complete and spring grains harvest was well ahead of last year. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 70% complete, the same as 2004.

Montana's 2005 **winter wheat** production was 92.3 million bushels, 38 percent higher than last year's production of 66.8 million bushels. This is the fourth largest crop on record and the highest since 1993 when 102.9 million bushels were produced. Producers seeded 2.10 million acres, 11 percent higher than the 2004 acreage. Producers harvested 2.05 million acres, up 420,000 acres from last year's acreage of 1.63 million acres. The 2005 average yield, at 45.0 bushels per acre, is 4 bushels higher than last year and unchanged from the previous forecast. Yield set a new record high, surpassing the previous high by 3 bushels per acre.

**Spring wheat** production in Montana was 81.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2004 because fewer acres were seeded and harvested in 2005. The final seeded acreage was 2.6 million acres, down 400,000 acres from last year's

acreage of 3.0 million acres. Producers harvested 2.6 million acres, down 300,000 acres from the previous year's acreage of 2.9 million acres. Yields averaged 32.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from the August forecast, but up 1 bushel from the previous year.

Montana **durum wheat** growers seeded 570,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Producers harvested 565,000 acres, up 4 percent from 2004. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels per acre from last year, and down 2 bushel from the previous forecast. Total production for 2005 was estimated at 15.8 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year. For the week ending September 25, durum wheat harvest was 96 percent complete compared to 59 percent last year.

In 2005, Montana producers seeded 950 thousand acres of **barley**, 50,000 acres fewer than the 2004 acreage of 1.0 million acres. This is the lowest acreage seeded since 1953, when 582 thousand acres were seeded. Producers harvested 710,000 acres, 120,000 fewer than the 2004 harvested acreage of 830,000. The final yield for 2005 averaged 56.0 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from last year, and down 4 bushels from the August forecast. Production was estimated at 39.8 million bushels, 8 percent below last year.

**Oat** production in Montana was estimated at 1.7 million bushels, down 27 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 85,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2004. Harvested acreage was set at 33,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from last year. Average yield at 53.0 bushels per acre, was 7 bushels below 2004, but unchanged from the previous forecast.

Total production of **alfalfa hay** in Montana is estimated to be 4.59 million tons, up 43 percent from the previous year.

**Alfalfa hay** yield rose 0.20 ton from the August forecast to 2.70 tons per acre. This would be a new record high for alfalfa yield with the previous record of 2.60 tons per acre set in 1981. Harvested area, at 1.70 million acres, remained unchanged from August, but is 300,000 acres more than 2004. **Other hay** yield was unchanged from August's forecast of 1.60 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 2.00 million tons, up 30 percent from 2004. Other hay harvested area is unchanged from August at 1.25 million acres, but is up 150,000 acres from 2004. **All hay** production is estimated at 6.59 million tons, up 38 percent from last year. **All hay** yield is estimated to be 2.23 tons per acre, up 0.33 ton per acre from last year. This would tie the previous record high all hay yield set in 1995.

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